

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 02090 111345Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CPR-01  
NSC-05 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 /034 W  
-----111347Z 007842 /46  
O 111253Z FEB 77 ZFF  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1187

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2090

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PDIP IN  
SUBJECT: US REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL OF LATE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

1. ALTHOUGH THERE IS STILL NO FIRM INFORMATION FROM FOREIGN CAPITALS REGARDING ATTENDANCE BY FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE INDIAN PRESIDENT ON AFTERNOON OF FEBRUARY 13, IT IS BECOMING APPARENT THAT THERE WILL BE AT LEAST A MODERATE REPRESENTATION IN DELHI. THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION HAS RECOMMENDED REPRESENTATION BY EITHER A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OR A SENIOR MINISTER. THE GERMANS, JAPANESE AND FRENCH EMBASSIES HERE HAVE ALL RECOMMENDED REPRESENTATION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. THE SOVIET EMBASSY TELLS US THEY BELIEVE THAT KOSYGIN WILL ATTEND; BUT DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF PODGORNYY.

IT SEEMS LIKELY TO US THE SOVIETS WILL BE REPRESENTED AT A HIGH LEVEL SINCE AT INDIAN REQUEST THE PODGORNYY VISIT HAS BEEN DEFERRED. THE NEPALESE EMBASSY REPORTS THEIR CIME MINISTER IS LIKELY TO ATTEND. WE UNDERSTAND DISTANCE MAY PREVENT CANADIANS FROM COMING.

3. I RECOMMEND THAT THE US ALSO BE REPRESENTED. OUR PRESENCE WILL DEMONSTRATE SYMPATHETIC US REGARD FOR INDIA AT A TIME OF NATIONAL MOURNING. DESPITE THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN, ALL INDIANS, PARTICULARLY ALL MUSLIMS, WILL MOURN THE DEATH OF THE PRESIDENT; THE FUNERAL SHOULD NOT BE A PARTISAN OCCASION. THE FACT THAT  
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THE GOI IS MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO WELCOME FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES SUGGESTS THAT MRS. GANDHI PLANS NO DRAMATIC POLITICAL MOVES DURING THEIR PRESENCE. SHE IS SCHEDULED TO MAKE A RADIO ADDRESS TONIGHT AND UNTIL THEN WE WILL NOT KNOW FOR SURE HER PURPOSE BUT WE ASSUME IT IS ONLY TO CONDOLE THE NATION'S LOSS.

4. THE EMBASSY, OF COURSE, HAS FACILITIES TO CARE FOR ANY US

REPRESENTATION AT BOTH MY RESIDENCE AND ROOSEVELT HOUSE, WHICH IS EMPTY BUT PREPARED TO RECEIVE GUESTS. WE ARE TOLD THAT HOTEL SPACE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BUT WE BELIEVE THZLGOI WOULD COMMANDEER IT IF NECESSARY.

5. WE HAVE STILL BEEN UNABLE TO FIND OUT THE PRECISE TIME ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON FOR THE FUNERAL OR ITS PLACE AND INDEED THOSE DECISIONS MAY NOT YET HAVE BEEN MADE. IT MAY TAKE PLACE AT JUMA MASJAD, A LARGE MOSQUE IN A CROWDED SECTION OF OLD DELHI.

6. WHILE THERE IS GREAT POLITICAL UNCERTAINTY IN INDIA AS A RESULT OF SURPRISES IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN (SEE SEPARATE TELEGRAM) WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY SECURITY PROBLEM WHICH WOULD STAND IN THE WAY OF A US REPRESENTATIVE COMING FOR PRESIDENT'S FUNERAL.  
SCHNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009